

**Vision
Plan, Advocate, Evaluate**

To advocate for a system that supports persons impacted by mental disorders on their journeys to achieve the highest quality of life possible by promoting evidence-based, cost-effective, individualized mental health services.

Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council
June 25, 2003
Red Lion Inn, Yakima

Approved 10/15/03

In attendance: Gil Thurston, Chair, Graydon Andrus, Jeanette Barnes, Chuck Benjamin, Vicki Bringman, Lou Colwell, BJ Cooper, John Fisher, Joann Freimund, Alan Himsl, Sondra Martin; Andy Pascua, Jean Pond, Judith Stormbreaker, Molly Thorpe, Dorothy Trueblood, Mel Watt, Josselyn Winslow, Charlene Woodward.

Absent (excused): Roger Bauer, Pat Calf-Looking, Diane Eschenbacher, Glenn Graves, Becky Kellas, Candy Manke, Bonnie Scott, Janet SooHoo, Paula Zamudio.

Absent (unexcused): David King.

MHD Staff: Steve Norsen, Kathy Burns Peterson.

Guests: Doug Johnson (Sexual Minority Subcommittee); Barb Putnam (Children's Subcommittee); David Lord (Washington Protection and Advocacy Service); Joyce Whitman.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Gil Thurston, Chair. Gil invited David Lord to present his letter of concern that the Mental Health Ombuds and Quality Review Team program will no longer be included in the Medicaid waiver.

The agenda was reviewed and additions were made.

"Way To Go" awards

Approval was given to write a letter of recognition to Phuong Cat Le for his article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer "Mentally Ill thrive in community settings." Gil also proposed recognition of Andy Toulon for his outstanding work on implementing the Expanding Community Services program.

<p>ACTION: Kathy Peterson will write a letter of recognition for Gil Thurston's signature to Phuong Cat Le for his article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer "Mentally Ill thrive in community settings" as well as for Andy Toulon.</p>

Gil announced that Glenn Graves has resigned from the Planning Council due to his responsibilities in establishing a private practice. Gil will write a letter of appreciation to Glenn for his contributions to the Planning Council.

Joann Freimund nominated Barb Putnam, Chair of the Children and Youth Subcommittee to fill the vacancy on the Planning Council. A motion was made, seconded and passed to appoint Barb Putnam to the Planning Council. Kathy Peterson will prepare the appointment letter.

ACTION: Kathy Peterson will prepare the appointment letter for Barb Putnam to the Planning Council.

There was discussion about moving the date of the October 8 meeting. There was approval to move the October meeting to the 15th at SeaTac, at the Holiday Inn.

ACTION: Council members change their calendars to October 15 meeting date.

Review of May 14, 2003 meeting minutes:

The minutes from the May 14, 2003 meeting were amended, approved and accepted. The draft minutes will be posted on the MHD website:
<http://www.wa.gov/DSHS/mentalhealth/>

Review of May 14, 2003 action items:

1. Gil will write a letter of recognition to Peter Kelley of the Skagit Valley Herald for his article on memory screening as a way of early detection of persons with dementia. (handout) **Completed.**
2. All Subcommittee Chairs need to submit a membership roster for approved by the Council at the June meeting. (handout) **Completed.**
3. Kathy Peterson will follow-up to the question on getting funding from the Medical Assistance Administration for Medicare/Medicaid crossover clients. **Pending.**
4. Karl Brimner will initiate a discussion to explore options to provide residential services because the supplemental funding to implement the PCG study was not obtained. **(agenda item)**
5. Kathy Peterson will notify the Planning Council of the dates of the community meetings to update the DSHS six-year plan. July 17 - Everett; July 24 – Spokane; August 21 – Yakima; August 28 – Olympia. Invitations will be sent out shortly. **No further action is required.**
6. Karl Brimner will follow-up to the question on the status of the proposed budget cut of the General Assistance Unemployable program. **(agenda item)**

7. A presentation on the Prevalence Study will be provided to the Council when the draft report is ready. **Pending.**
8. Gil will contact the House Appropriations Committee to express concerns with using Federal Block Grant money to fund the King County Mentally Ill Offender program. **(handout) agenda item.**
9. All Council and Subcommittee members should plan on attending the All-Stakeholder meeting on August 13 at the SeaTac Holiday Inn. RSN Administrators will also be invited. **(agenda item)**
10. The updated Access to Care standards will be distributed to Planning Council members as they become available. **Pending.**
11. Anne Strode will present a report on the Best Practice Resource Guides at the October 8 Planning Council meeting. **Pending.**
12. Each Subcommittee review the 4 questions on mental health specialists and provide input for discussion at the October 8 meeting. **Pending.**
13. A meeting will be set up with the MHD and the Medical Assistance Administration to discuss funding for interpreters for mental health services. **Pending.**

Legislative/Administrative Subcommittee:

Gil Thurston reported that the Legislative Subcommittee has not met. He will work with the members to develop a strategy and agenda by October.

Gil discussed the House appropriations proposal to divert \$900,000 of Federal Block Grant money to support the King County Mentally Ill Offender program, which has been supported with 100% state funds. Gil sent a letter to the House Appropriations Committee to express concerns with this proposal. He has not received a response.

Council members support the use of Federal Block Grant funds for serving offenders with a seriously mental illness. However, there is concern that the Planning Council was not consulted and input from the Council was not considered. Some RSNs also have concerns about using their share of Federal Block Grant funds in this manner.

It was moved, seconded and passed for Gil to schedule a meeting with the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means to express concerns with using Federal Block Grant money without consulting the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council as it could result in non-support.

<p>ACTION: Gil will schedule a meeting with the Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Ways and Means to express concerns with using Federal</p>

Block Grant money without consulting the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council.

There was also discussion about the use of the funds to support this program in King County at the expense of Federal Block Grant-supported mental health programs in other RSNs and that the Planning Council was not consulted in the process. When the Governor signs the budget, the Mental Health Division will be sending a letter to the Center for Mental Health Services requesting a modification to the current approved plan. Graydon and Mel spoke in support of the program as meeting the needs of persons with a serious mental illness. The Planning Council has a responsibility to recommend support or non-support of the state's modification request. A motion was made and seconded for the Council to write a letter of non-support to the State's modification request. The motion was passed with two nays and two abstentions.

ACTION: Gil and Joann will write a letter of non-support to the State's modification request for funding of the King County Mentally Ill Offender program.

ACTION: Mel Watt will provide a summary of the Mentally Ill Offender report to be shared with the Planning Council members.

Program/Planning Subcommittee:

Joann provided a summary of the Federal Block Grant training she attended in Washington, D.C. last month. There was a tremendous emphasis on the importance of the Council's advocacy role and speaking with a single voice. She reviewed the memo she had prepared as a handout encouraging Council members to increase their role in advocacy. There also needs to be discussion about the coordination of NAMI-WA and other advocacy organizations. After much discussion, the topic was referred to the Program/Planning Subcommittee and the Legislative/Administrative Subcommittee to prepare a proposal for Council consideration.

ACTION: The topic of the Council's Advocacy role was referred to a joint meeting of the Program/Planning Subcommittee and the Legislative/Administrative Subcommittee to prepare a proposal for Council consideration.

Joann reviewed the proposed agenda and activities for the August 13 All-Stakeholder meeting. She reported that the Children's Subcommittee has reviewed the nominations for service excellence awards. The morning will be devoted to Children's issues and awards, and an afternoon presentation on Older Adult treatment and services, which will be the award category for the 2004 All-Stakeholder meeting. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be July 2.

ACTION: All Council and Subcommittee members should plan on attending the All-Stakeholder meeting on August 13 at the SeaTac Holiday Inn. RSN Administrators and Advisory Committee members will also be invited.

Children/Youth Subcommittee:

Barb Putnam reviewed the activities of June 23 Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee reviewed the nominations for the Children's service excellence awards and will be making recommendations to the Program/Planning Subcommittee at the July 2 meeting. The minutes will be distributed to Council members when they are available.

Sexual Minorities Subcommittee:

Doug Johnson reported on the membership of the Subcommittee and the progress of the "Do Ask Do Tell" trainings, which will be completed at the end of August. The Subcommittee is also discussing a process to have consistent representation at Planning Council meetings.

Older Adults Subcommittee:

Josselyn Winslow again expressed frustration regarding Subcommittee staff support, including difficulties with minute-taking and availability of a laptop computer. The Subcommittee is delighted to have the opportunity to present issues related to Older Adults at the August all-stakeholder meeting. The Subcommittee is working on developing a presentation for the afternoon session.

Ethnic Minorities Subcommittee:

Andy Pascua provided an overview of activities of the Ethnic Minorities Subcommittee. He stated that the Subcommittee format has changed to a mini-forum format with electronic letters to stakeholders. The Subcommittee has engaged subject-matter experts to provide expertise on designated topics on a time-limited basis. There will be a statewide forum scheduled for September, 2003 in Toppenish. Gil reminded the Subcommittees to bring action items forward for Planning Council consideration.

Rehabilitation Council:

Joann Freimund reported on the June Rehabilitation Council meeting. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation received a budget increase of \$2.5 million for the biennium. However, new vocational program applicants as of June , 2003 are being put on wait lists until federal funding becomes available in October.

Consumer Roundtable:

BJ Cooper reported that the Consumer Roundtable is being restructured. At this point it is unclear how this will evolve. She will provide more information as it becomes available.

SAFE-WA (aka Parent Council)

Jeannette Barnes reported that the next meeting of SAFE-WA is scheduled for July. There will be a retreat at the end of September.

Director's Report:

Steve Norsen attended the meeting to represent the Director, Karl Brimmer.

Steve stated that he would distribute a copy of the budget summary when the Governor has signed it. The proposed elimination of the General Assistance-Unemployable program did not pass. The Medically Indigent program was eliminated effective June 30, 2003. A Psychiatric Indigent Inpatient program will be established for voluntary inpatient persons who have no resources.

ACTION: Steve Norsen will provide a copy of the budget summary when the Governor has signed it.

Chuck Benjamin added that it appears that there is an increase of \$40 million over the biennium for mental health services. However, eligibility standards have been increased so fewer persons will be eligible for Medicaid. He also stated that the Legislature capped administrative expenses at 10% for RSNs and providers combined. This money will be taken away based on prior revenue and expenditure reports. This will be a significant loss to the mental health system. The RSNs have written a letter requesting the Governor to veto this provision. A motion was made and seconded that the Planning Council write a letter to the Governor requesting a veto of this provisions. The motion passed with one nay and one abstention.

ACTION: The Planning Council write a letter to the Governor requesting a line item veto of the Legislative Budget provisions capping administrative expenses at 10% for RSNs and providers combined. **Note:** Word was received the following day that the Governor had vetoed the 10% administrative cap.

Steve provided a summary of the Public Consulting Group report recommendations to increase residential capacity. There is discussion underway on strategies to develop hospital alternatives; giving the Mental Health Division authority to license residential facilities; implementing the “administer a portion” provision; making better use of the housing trust fund; and reducing hospital length of stay. Dennis Braddock has also sponsored discussion on making progress on these initiatives through the TeleCare program.

The RSN contract went out electronically last week. The RSNs have until August 1 to sign and return the contract. The WAC re-write is being slowed down a bit to include broader stakeholder input. The waiver is close to being completed.

David Lord submitted a letter for consideration by the Planning Council outlining concerns that the Ombuds and Quality Review Team functions are being considered for elimination. Steve stated that these programs are in the current WAC and contract. Steve would like to participate in a discussion of the outcomes of these programs, but not necessarily support the process as it has always been accomplished. Gil will respond to David Lord’s letter.

ACTION: Gil will respond to David Lord’s letter of concern about elimination of the Ombuds and Quality Review Team programs.

Joann invited Mel Watt and Lou Colwell to provide a summary of their programs at the October Planning Council meeting.

Next meeting: August 13 All-Stakeholder meeting at the Sea-Tac Holiday Inn. Contact Sherrie Aho at (360) 902-0785 or Ahos@dshs.wa.gov for travel at least two weeks in advance. Members who will be absent must notify Gil Thurston, Kathy Peterson or Sherrie Aho five days before the meeting or the absence will be counted as “unexcused.”

REMAINING CALENDAR FOR 2003:

August 13, 2003 All-stakeholders meeting, Sea-Tac Holiday Inn
October 15, 2003, Sea-Tac Holiday Inn (**this is a change**)
November 12, 2003, Sea-Tac Holiday Inn

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

June 25, 2003 Action Items

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2. Kathy Peterson will prepare the appointment letter for Barb Putnam to the Planning Council.
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Pending Action Items

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